HEADQUARTERS CHINO CADET SQUADRON 20 UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY 7000 MERRILL AVE. BLDG A-315, BOX 42 CHINO, CA 91710



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Capt. Andrea Binder Public Affairs Officer, Chino Cadet Squadron 20

951-371-3725

Email: <u>binderfarm@aol.com</u>

CHINO CADET SQUADRON 20 HELPS CORONA AIRPORT CLEAN UP

(Corona, CA) – January 24, 2005 – "Service, Commitment, Dedication", these are the words that Corona Airport Manager, Rich Brodeur, used to describe the USAF Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol (CAP). "CAP members Capt. John Binder and his wife, Capt. Andrea Binder have been instrumental in putting storm damaged Corona Airport back together".

Nestled on 100 acres of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land (leased to the City of Corona), behind a willow forest in the Prado Basin, lies the small, community oriented, Corona Municipal Airport. This airport is home to almost 400 privately owned aircraft and is used strictly as a general aviation airport, with no commercial passenger flights. The Corona airport is extremely active, with over 60,000 annual landings and takeoffs. All funds to operate and maintain the airport are generated through their local user rental fees as well as state and federal airport grants. A major priority for airport management and staff is that the airport always be self-sustaining. "That is why Chino Cadet Squadron 20, and the other squadrons of Civil Air Patrol who helped us, were so instrumental in our clean up after our huge flood, there was no money for the extra manpower required to do all this emergency work", according to Corona's Rich Brodeur. "This is the cleanest I have ever seen this runway, I didn't know cadets could work so hard." CAP Capt. John Binder added: "We had to stop sweeping, because we were starting to sweep up the runway asphalt,"

"Capt. Andrea Binder arranged for safety equipment to be donated by Cal-Olympic Safety; gloves, goggles, masks, squeegees, safety vests and more. By the second weekend, 95% of all the donations were used. We had that many volunteer workers", said Manager Rich Brodeur. "She was also instrumental in organizing the food for the volunteers. Local restaurants took turns daily with donated food and she would pick it up," said Airport Administrator, Susan Langham. "She,

and those neighborhood restaurants, were a god send to be able to feed the all of the volunteers who worked so hard."

Cadets were tasked with keeping pilots from entering areas that had not been cleared yet. Many helped with squeegees, sweeping, clearing hangers and placing aircraft in safer areas. Cadets and seniors swept and cleared debris from the runway. Civil Air Patrol volunteers worked for two weekends, including the Martin Luther King Holiday, to help with the clean up at Corona Airport. Volunteers ranged in ages from 12-50. Many of the Civil Air Patrol cadets came from the neighboring communities of Anza, Norco, Corona, Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, Hemet, Murrieta, Fullerton and Riverside.

"We want to do something special for the cadets that volunteered so many hours and worked so hard," said Fred Peters, a Master Lease Holder, one of the original builders of Corona Airport. "We don't know exactly what yet, but we will do something after the mud settles. One idea is to have the pilots that are certified ground instructors to teach and certify the cadets that participated."

"We would do it all over again, rain or shine. When Corona Airport needs us, we want to be there," stated CAP cadet Brendan Dougherty. "Civil Air Patrol is at the top of my list for notification in my book, I wish I had called them sooner. They came to me in my hour of need and we are so grateful", said Corona Airport Manager Rich Brodeur.

Civil Air Patrol Squadrons that participated in the restoration over the weekends were Chino Cadet Squadron 20; C/TSgt Brendan Dougherty, C/B Desiree Forteville, C/Amn Ryan Newton, C/A1C Alex Shea, C/A1C Andre Bodine, C/CMSgt. Nick Boswell, 1Lt. Chris Martinez, 1Lt. Frank Cano, 1Lt. Mark Strzok, Capt. John Binder, Capt. Andrea Binder; Hemet-Ryan Composite Squadron 59; C/Amn Ryan Yuhas, C/TSgt. Bernardo Meza, C/B Stacy Peabody, C/B Josh Burnham, C/A1C Kevyn Meredith, 2Lt. Gene Johnson, Capt. Denny Joyce; Group 7 Headquarters; 1Lt. Rich Lovick; Santa Monica Composite Squadron 51; 2Lt. Robert Noble; Fullerton Composite Squadron 56; C/TSgt. Jordan Petree; Los Alamitos Squadron 150, Jim Roadarmel.